

Tree Scribe

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SHOTTON GO-AHEAD

IN THE previous issue of Tree Scribe, we headlined the possibility that a major new pulpmill would be set up in North Wales. That prospect has now been translated into reality with the announcement by United Paper Mills of Finland that they are to go ahead and put the plant into operation.

With start-up scheduled for summer 1985, the mill will have an annual wood intake requirement of 450,000 tonnes comprised mainly of spruce pulpwood, together with a restricted quantity of pine and a proportion of bark-free chips supplied by sawmills from their residues. The main supply zone will be Wales and the North of England; in the early years supplies will be topped-up from South Scotland.

The Forestry Commission will undertake a direct-supply contract of up to 60 per cent of the roundwood requirement; 25 per cent will come from private woodlands and the balance from standing sales in Commission forests.

Already, a Shotton Suppliers Co-ordinating Group has been formed, bringing together the Timber Growers and the main contracting agencies of management companies, roundwood merchants, sawmillers, harvesting companies and co-operatives to co-ordinate and channel the supplies in an orderly fashion.

Using a thermo-mechanical pulping process, the integrated pulp and paper mill will have an annual production capacity of 180,000 tonnes of high quality newsprint and employ 270 people, while securing the employment of a further 1000 in timber harvesting and haulage, transport of the finished product and related jobs.

The mill will be operated by United Paper Mills' wholly-owned newly-formed subsidiary, Shotton Paper Company Limited, and the total cost of the investment is put at £135 million. In 1982, the parent company shipped to Britain 190,000 tonnes of various types of paper and paper products, mostly newsprint and other printing papers.

In making the announcement, the managing director of UPM said, "We intend to build a modern mill at Shotton, incorporating the latest technology available and the know-how that has been developed within our company. We are convinced that with these concepts we can produce, from British raw material, the high-quality newsprint that meets the requirements of the most demanding customers." It is known that in evaluating the project, extensive trials were made in Finland using British-grown spruce pulpwood.

OUTSIDE North America, Britain is the world's largest consumer of newsprint. In a reversal of the recent downturn in UK newsprint production, the Shotton project should help to boost domestic self-sufficiency to around one-third of the total demand and make a substantial contribution to import substitution.

The advent of Shotton secures the market for pulpwood from an important supply zone and justifies the faith of growers, State and private alike, in producing the raw material in volumes sufficient to attract investment in the processing plant on an international scale.

Moreover, the announcement gives a boost to the whole forestry industry and will add both credibility and impetus to the promotion of further new industrial developments, particularly in Scotland.

At Tilhill's annual dinner-dance, David Brierton congratulated Forestry Commission Director-General George Holmes on the tremendous job done by the Commission, and in particular its Harvesting and Marketing Division staff, in helping to bring about the Shotton development.



A TALL ORDER . . .

● Old-timers with a mammoth felling task on their hands — but not in this country, that's for sure. Read about modern-day forestry in Tasmania on page 2.

SFPDGC in action

THE Scottish Forest Products Development Group is now in action following the adoption of the study undertaken by consultants Arthur D. Little. The Group consists of the former steering committee for the study, being representatives of the Scottish Development Agency, the Highlands and Islands Development Board, the Forestry Commission, Timber Growers Scotland and the Scottish Economic Planning Department.

The target is straightforward — to promote investment of some £300 million over the next 15 years in forest products processing in Scotland. The plan includes the continued modernisation and expansion of sawmilling and new developments in panel products and pulp and paper production. In all cases, the size and location of plants would be matched to the availability of sawlogs, small roundwood and sawmill residues, total production of which is set to double over the period.

Every support will be given to indigenous industry, but inward investment will also be sought. The opportunity is to process and convert the increasing raw material from Scottish forests and serve the vast, import-dominated, British consumer market.

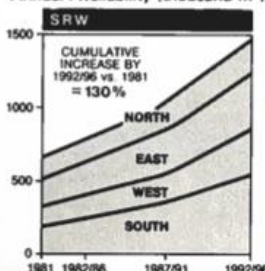
Increasingly, international forest

product companies are becoming concerned about the availability of raw material. Recently, Matti Pekkanen, President of the Central Federation of Finnish Forest Industries, has said, "The future will also mean taking products closer to the consumer by building production plants where the consumer is, where the product is used. At some stage we are going to reach a point where we have to decide what is worth producing in Finland and what closer to the consumer, even in continental Europe."

● The output of small diameter roundwood will increase over the next 15 years by a massive 130 per cent.

GROWTH IN THE PRODUCTION OF SCOTTISH SMALL ROUNDWOOD

Annual Availability (thousand m³)



Prophetically, this was said before UPM of Finland decided to go ahead with their integrated pulp and papermill in North Wales. This latter development adds particular point to the SFPDGC's work, not least because world interest will be alerted to the resurgence of the forest products industry in Britain and because the removal of the competition from Wales puts Scotland in the forefront of uncommitted wood availability.

The SFPDGC launched their programme with three well-attended public presentations held in January in Inverness, Stirling and Dumfries and have distributed widely at home and overseas a brochure outlining the campaign. Visits are now scheduled to target companies in Europe and North America. Discussions have started with representatives of the Scottish sawmillers on strategic planning. Specified enquiries are being dealt with.

The work is being done without the creation of a new "quango" or additional funding, but by the structured co-ordination of the efforts and time of members of the constituent organisations of the Group. Tilhill managing director David Brierton serves on the Group as a representative of Timber Growers Scotland.

TASMANIAN LOG

I WAS fortunate enough late last year to escape the Argyllshire monsoon by spending a month in Tasmania where I became acquainted with many of the topics which have been receiving coverage by the British news media.

While forestry was not the motive for my trip, it was impossible, as a professional forester, not to become interested in how the Tasmanians practise their silviculture.

Tasmania, lying off the south-east corner of mainland Australia, is dwarfed by the rest of the continent but is, in fact, about the same size as Eire. The population of nearly half a million is concentrated largely in Hobart, the state capital in the south, and along the northern coast to the west of the second largest town, Launceston.

Other smaller communities are scattered throughout the island, except for the south-west quarter, serving local forestry and agriculture or specific industrial activities. The virtually uninhabited south-west is still temperate wilderness of incredible beauty, recently threatened by the controversial proposal to build a hydro-electric scheme there.

"If you were going any further you'd be coming back," were the parting words of a friend as I boarded the Clyde ferry on the first leg of my journey. Total travel time from Dunoon to Launceston was 58 hours, including several brief stopovers, notably in Hong Kong. Friends met me at Launceston and after a few days recuperating from a mixture of jet-lag and welcoming parties, I set off to explore the island.

Two-day bushwalk

I teamed up with a New Zealander for a two-day bushwalk in the Freycinet National Park, situated on the east coast. A gruelling four-hour trek in the morning heat took us over the Hazards mountain range to Wineglass Bay, a picturesque inlet enclosed by soaring granite peaks. Here, I had my first close encounter with antipodean wildlife when a wallaby approached close enough to be hand fed.

After following well-marked trails through magnificent stands of Eucalypts, we finally reached the summit of Mt. Freycinet with the midday sun streaming down from a northern sky. I realised how intimidating this type of trekking was compared with the openness of the Scottish hills. Recent wildfire had cleared much of the under-storey, leaving the high forest towering 50 metres above a bare forest floor.

In Hobart I visited the headquarters of the Tasmanian Forestry Commission and learned much of the island's forest operations. Although a tiny fraction of the total area of Australia, Tasmania produces nearly 30 per cent of the continent's timber output. An estimated 6.8 million hectares, or 41 per cent of the land surface, is covered with exploitable forest composed almost entirely of indigenous species. There are lesser areas of softwood plantation, largely of *Pinus radiata*.

Eucalypt forest predominates, with three species accounting for the bulk of production, two Stringybark gums — *E. obliqua* and *E. delegatensis* — and a Swamp gum — *E. regnans*. These are marketed collectively under the name Tasmanian oak and have a wide range of uses. *E. regnans* is the tallest hardwood tree in the world, towering to a lofty 99 metres in the Styx valley near Hobart. I regret not visiting this area, but did walk through marvellous groves of *E. obliqua* with clean gun barrel stems of 30 metres.



Cowal and Bute branch manager Colin Blyth (left) recently visited Australia's island state of Tasmania. Here, he describes his experiences "down under."



● Seven-year-old trees after regeneration.

Of other Tasmanian hardwood species, the best known are blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*), myrtle (*Notofagus cunninghamii*) and Sassafras (*Atherosperma moschatum*). There are used primarily for high-class joinery and furniture work. There are three indigenous conifers, notably Huon pine (*Dacrydium franklinii*) which is considered one of the world's finest boat-building timbers and is prized by craftsmen.

In 1981, there were 147 operating sawmills which used nearly a million cubic metres of hardwood logs; a further seven mills cut 200,000 cubic metres of radiata pine logs. Four pulp and papermills are located at various places on the island and utilise low-quality hardwood material.

In the early Seventies, the export began to Japan of hardwood chips for pulping and three companies are currently operating in

this market. I was told that this poorly paying market was an interim measure until the home market was developed to absorb locally-grown material. (I could have sworn I had heard that story somewhere before).

The Forestry Commission has many other responsibilities, notably fire protection and private forestry. Fire is not only an essential ingredient in the regeneration of the native forest but is also very strictly controlled by law.

Grant schemes

During the late Seventies, concern at the haphazard management of the considerable resource in private hands led to the formation of the Private Forestry Division which provides advice to growers and administers various grant schemes.

Next I went north to visit friends who owned a smallholding in an isolated area where I spent an absolutely idyllic week working on the farm or trekking through the marvellous forest which clothed the slopes of the 1000-metre high plateau of the Western Tiers. Sadly, after so much wonderful hospitality there, and everywhere else I went, the time came to head home.

I landed at Turnhouse on a beautiful crisp winter's day with a light cover of snow mantling the countryside. The temperature was minus five degrees Centigrade. I later heard that the hottest temperature recorded in Tasmania that day was thirty degrees at a place called Campbell Town. I wonder if it ever gets as hot as that on the Mull of Kintyre?

PS IN MARCH I received a letter from my friends telling of devastating wildfires in Tasmania. The forest on the Western Tiers had been severely damaged and the farm narrowly missed being destroyed. On the mainland, former neighbours weren't so lucky; two perished as bushfires swept through a small settlement.

By unhappy coincidence, I read the letter while listening on the radio to news of severe flooding in South Australia. But there is also good news. A change of Government has occurred and it seems likely that the dam project will be cancelled.



● Lighting up for a regeneration burn.



David Russell (right) studies plans with forester Steve Taylor.

MANAGEMENT of this type of woodland is complex and the preparation of the wide-ranging management plan which aimed to integrate the wishes of several major and numerous minor interested parties presented Branch Manager David Russell with something of a challenge.

The forest is steeped in history. An old Roman road, now a public footpath, forms a boundary at one edge and early records date back to the tenth century when the forest was owned by Earl Athelwold. This wayward knight evidently aroused the passions of his King for he was murdered in the forest, by Edgar, in the year 963 and a plaque erected during the last century marks the very spot.

From the fourteenth until well into the nineteenth century, the wood was managed as oak coppice to supply the tanneries at Andover with the bark until demand fell off and the forest went into decline. The First World War succeeded in finishing off what little commercial value was left when felling took place to provide charcoal for the manufacture of gunpowder.

The first signs of revitalisation for Harewood came in 1962 when the current owner, Captain A. A. L. Wills, took over and implemented a programme of partial clearance and conversion to conifers and developed the management of the resident fallow deer as an important part of the estate's economy.

The problems were to restore the woodlands to a productive condition in the most cost-effective way, without detracting too much from the woodlands' natural character.

A new initiative was taken in 1982 when the County Council and the Nature Conservancy Council were both keen to become involved with the owner in any future plans affecting the forest. The cost of the management plan commissioned by the estate from Tilhill was aided by a grant from the County Council and the Countryside Commission.

In addition, there were the interests of other bodies to consider — the Forestry Commission, the Council for the Preservation of Rural England the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Naturalist Trust, the Game Conservancy and several district and parish councils.

David Russell's task was to draw up a management plan which would be acceptable to everyone. "Fortunately," said David, "all parties were very keen to co-operate. The Council is very go-ahead; in fact, in my experience, they

lead the field in their awareness of the importance of preserving our heritage without being blind to the need for producing timber and the owner is very conscious of the importance of Harewood Forest as a national asset."

David's strategy to meet these varied requirements was based on the need to obtain early returns from some parts of the estate while, at the same time, providing a variety of habitat for the forest's flora and fauna.

He proposed that 400 of the forest's worst acres should be completely cleared, deer-fenced and re-stocked entirely with fast growing conifers.

The remaining 800 acres would be managed as broadleaved woodland with species such as oak, ash, beech and cherry to be grown on carefully selected sites to give top-quality hardwood timber over a very much longer time-scale.

"This will be done by hand cutting the oak coppice and birch, most of which will be converted to charcoal on site," said David. "The Forestry Commission have agreed to accept a proportion of oak coppice in the restocking of the broadleaved areas, but some of the stools will be poisoned to reduce competition with the new young trees."

Much of the planting will be grant-aided by the

Forestry Commission under the new Forestry Grant Scheme, but a proportion of the work will be grant-aided jointly by Hampshire County Council and the Countryside Commission.

Along with oak, which was prized for its high tannin content and used in leather-curing, the wood has hazel as an under-storey species. This would have been used for hurdle-making at a time when sheep-grazing was widespread in Hampshire.

In the first year of the management plan, Tilhill is making a start by re-stocking a 20-acre site previously cleared by the owner. Protection from deer damage is a large part of the overall programme. There are large herds of fallow and roe deer managed by the owner, who is a keen stalker, and David is experimenting with a new type of deer fence recommended by Richard Prior of the Game Conservancy. The fence uses two strands of electrified wire instead of the conventional netting.

This is not the first time that David has been involved in a project of this nature. Three years ago, at Faccombe Manor estate also near Andover, he initiated a similar though smaller operation, which was nevertheless to help in developing Tilhill's reputation in Hampshire for the management of this type of woodland.

MPs' question time

TILHILL played host to the all-party forestry group of Members of Parliament when they visited Scotland last month.

Each year the group asks the Forestry Commission to arrange a forestry tour and this year's venue was the East (Scotland) Conservancy. As part of the tour and to inspect an example of large-scale private afforestation, they spent an afternoon at the Griffin Forestry Estate at Aberfeldy which Tilhill manages on behalf of the Midland Bank Pension Trust Ltd.

The party, which comprised seven MPs, were shown round by Managing Director David Brierton, Scottish Division Director Sandy Macpherson and Central Branch manager Tom McLellan.

Also in attendance from the Forestry Commission were the Chairman, Sir David Montgomery, Conservator Ian Grant, Assistant Conservator George Taylor, District Officer Roger Larsen and Private Woodlands Officer James Cramb.

The tour and discussions covered a number of aspects of afforestation, including the consultation procedure for planting grant approval, pre-planting treatment of the site, road construction, species composition, employment and wildlife. On cue, in the brilliant visibility of the early spring afternoon, two golden eagles soared above the heads of the party.

WHATEVER other functions forests and woodlands may serve — in wildlife conservation, landscape improvement, shelter to agriculture, provision of recreation facilities — the principal purpose of commercial forestry is the production of timber . . . timber for the sawmills, the pulp mills and the particleboard factories, destined, after processing, for the consumer in the shape of construction timber, pallets, packaging, newsprint, furniture, fencing and the thousand-and-one uses to which wood is put.

The first link in the chain after the forester has grown and tended the trees is the harvesting and marketing of the wood in the round. It is work that requires skill and experience in containing the costs of harvesting, in optimising the yield of the higher value categories of log and in seeking out and supplying the most advantageous markets.

Recession

The severe recession, which has hit the timber industry as a hard as any, adds to the normal day-to-day problems of keeping such a business flowing smoothly. It is a tribute to Tilhill's Harvesting and Marketing Division that it is operating profitably in such difficult circumstances.

A re-structure was put into effect 18 months ago to consolidate the Division's activities in the north of England and the southern half of Scotland, areas in which Tilhill clients have concentrated their major afforestation programmes since the mid 1960's.

In the long-term operation that the growing of timber involves, it makes sense to plan well in advance, develop harvesting resources and cultivate markets ready for the day when production comes fully on-stream.

Forecasts

As Divisional Manager Graham Drennan-Smith says, "There is little sense in growing trees for 25 years on the scale we are doing and then at the last minute, when your plantations come into production, going out into the marketplace expecting to find readily available tailor-made outlets for your product."

While production forecasts for other areas of Tilhill-managed forests in the country have not yet been completed, figures for the south of Scotland alone give a measure of the increase in timber volume that will be forthcoming from the afforestation properties.

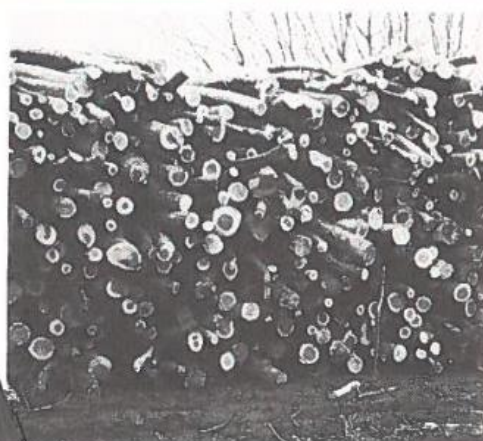
In 10 years' time, production from these new forests will have reached 52,000 cubic metres per annum (ie in addition to production from clients' woodlands which are already in the production stage). By the turn of the century, this additional production from Tilhill managed forests in south Scotland will have further increased to 154,000 cubic metres per annum.

Rationale

This, then, is the rationale behind the Harvesting and Marketing Division's activities and the reason for its consolidation in its operational area. By trading today as a roundwood merchant, purchasing standing timber from the Forestry Commission and from private estates which are not clients of Tilhill, the Division is creating for itself a presence in the market-place and developing a cadre of efficient and well-equipped harvesting contractors so that these



● Adam Ritchie.



● Roadside stocks of chipwood await

Sales spr



● End of the line for a Tilhill log. Alan Robbins (left) with Charlie Kirkwood, manager of Callanders sawmills in Falkirk. Callanders are one of Tilhill's main customers and make a lot of packing cases for the motor industry.



resources and facilities can be extended to Tilhill-managed properties when the production "bulge" takes place.

In other parts of Britain, the age classes of Tilhill's clients' woodlands are much more regularly distributed and their timber is harvested and marketed on an ongoing basis by the management divisions. In the geographic area covered by the H&M Division, clients' timber is harvested under the control of the Scottish Division and marketed to the more significant outlets for sawlogs, pulpwood and chipwood in conjunction with the H&M Division's sales.

The H&M Division has its headquarters at Old Sauchie, where Graham Drennan-Smith is

based, and presently there are three H&M Regional Managers — John Jackson based at Jedburgh and serving the Borders and northeast England, Adam Ritchie at Carlisle serving northwest England and southwest Scotland, and Alan Robbins working from Old Sauchie for east Scotland, central Scotland and Argyll. All are backed up with experienced secretarial and administrative staff.

On a day-to-day basis John, Adam and Alan spend little time at their desks; much time is spent arranging and supervising their field operations and maintaining close links with customers. Each manager is responsible for making his own timber purchases and this involves careful appraisal before a price can be



it despatch to Caberboard from a Borders project.

ingboard



● John Jackson (left) and Graham Drennan-Smith assess the volume of a high-quality oak butt.

offered either on a lump-sum basis for standing timber or on a per-unit-produced basis.

Trees are valued on their "break-out" value as sawlogs, palletwood, pulpwood and chipwood for sale delivered to the respective mills. In the case of more valuable hardwood logs, prospective purchasers will visit the site to inspect the felled butts and agree individual prices. Curiously, whereas forestry is now fully metricated, it is a quirk of the trade that these valuable hardwood logs are still often sold on the old Hoppus measure.

The recession has meant that the managers have to be flexible in their marketing in order to keep the timber moving. Some sawmills have gone bust and it is too late to be wise after the event when a cheque bounces.

Again, the closure of the Fort William pulpmill meant that too much Scottish small roundwood was chasing too few domestic outlets; an export market to Scandinavia had to be developed quickly as a temporary expedient — fortuitously the timing coincided with a shortage of pulpwood there. Now the home market for pulpwood and chipwood is beginning to pick up again.

Clearly, Graham and his team enjoy the challenges of private enterprise in the marketplace and the ability to see the results of their trading within a relatively short space of time. Tempered but unbowed by the recession, they are in good shape to meet an upturn in the economy and the more pleasant problems that an increase in demand for their wood will bring.

GRAHAM DRENNAN-SMITH is Tilhill's Divisional Manager for H&M. He first joined the company in 1969 as a forester with Peter Sloan in the Solway branch, becoming assistant branch manager there in 1971 after obtaining his National Diploma in Forestry.

Two years later, he went to Thirsk as branch manager designate for East Yorkshire, transferring within 12 months to H&M as regional manager in Jedburgh.

In 1979 he moved to Church Stretton as H&M area manager for England and Wales and took up his present post when the Division was reorganised in February 1982.

Prior to joining Tilhill, Graham spent seven years with the Forestry Commission.

JOHAN JACKSON is one of Tilhill's longest-serving employees in Scotland. He remembers being taken on as a forester in 1964 at £12 a week and still has his letter of appointment as a memento.

He has spent all but two years of his working life in the Borders, starting out as a self-employed timber contractor before joining Tilhill. After a short interlude in Yorkshire as forester in charge, he returned to his beloved Border country where he served as Borders branch forester before taking over as H&M Regional Manager from Graham Drennan-Smith in 1979.

Being born and bred in the close-knit community of the Borders, John has grown up alongside its landowners and farmers and has been able to use his intimate knowledge of the local scene to good advantage.

"It has cut down the familiarisation period that would have been necessary for a manager new to the district," he said, "especially as H&M Borders region has a long history of good working relationships with the many private estates which rely on Tilhill for their harvesting and marketing expertise."

WHEN Adam Ritchie left his home territory of south-west Scotland to study forestry at Edinburgh University, he didn't expect that his career would necessarily bring him back to the same neck of the woods.

But that's exactly what happened. Originally from Sanquhar, Adam is now H&M Regional Manager in Solway, living in Dumfries and operating from the Carlisle office.

After a short spell with an Edinburgh forestry consultant, Adam started his Tilhill career in 1976 as assistant branch manager in the Lothians branch where he gained his initial experience in harvesting and marketing operations.

In the same year, he moved briefly to Jedburgh as Graham Drennan-Smith's assistant and when the new H&M Solway region was formed six months later, transferred to Carlisle to take over the running of it.

ALAN ROBBINS, H&M Regional Manager based at Old Sauchie, worked briefly with the Forestry Commission in Aberdeenshire immediately after graduating from Aberdeen University and then became an agricultural liaison officer with British Gas where he was involved in looking after the interests of farmers and landowners during cross-country pipeline laying for North Sea gas distribution.

He joined Tilhill in 1976, the same year as Adam Ritchie, as assistant branch manager in Scottish Division's Central Branch and transferred to H&M as Regional Manager three years later in 1979.

People and places

YORK'S Viking Hotel, scene of the second joint company dance, once again proved to be a popular venue for Tilhill people and their families who travelled from points north and south for the social gathering of the year. They were rewarded with an excellent meal, words of wisdom from Chairman H. E. Trevan-Hawke and principal guest George Holmes, Director-General of the Forestry Commission, and dancing until the early hours. Below: Mr Trevan-Hawke and Mrs Joyce Brierton enjoy a "bon mot" in the address by the guest of honour George Holmes.



Special guests (right) were Tilhill pensioners, Mrs Elsa Cowan, formerly office manageress in Carlisle, and John Davison, formerly office manager at head office in the days of Tilhill Forestry (Scotland) Ltd. In proposing the toast to the guests, David Brierton said that Elsa and John were "the very stuff of which Tilhill was made."

Golden voice of the Greenhills telephone exchange, Margaret Cullen, sporting a golden tan from her recent Australian holiday, pictured here (left) with her husband.



Scottish Division



COLIN MACPHERSON has joined Tilhill as a forester in Central branch, Old Sauchie. He recently successfully completed his OND in forestry at Newton Rigg and couples this with several years as a self-employed timber contractor.

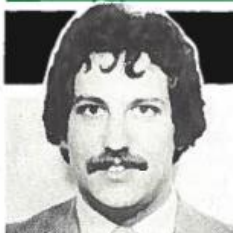
Prior to his forestry career, Colin spent two-and-a-half years in the Merchant Navy and travelled to many Far Eastern ports. He has many sporting interests, ranging from golf and sailing to orienteering. He is also busy rehearsing for an amateur dramatic production in Stirling.

Colin already has a family connection with Tilhill. His father is Steven Macpherson who is Scottish Division's Landscape Area Manager.



Margaret Lumsden has joined Central Landscape branch as a part-time clerkess / typist. This is Margaret's first job after taking a break from work to raise a daughter.

Southern Division



Lance Farlam has rejoined Tilhill as an abm in the Marches branch after a three-year absence. Originally employed in Scottish Division's Central branch, Lance moved to Forest Thinnings as a harvesting and marketing manager and then spent nine months in Ontario looking, unsuccessfully, for an opening in the Canadian forestry industry.

Lance graduated with honours in forestry in 1977 and before joining Tilhill the first time worked for a year on research into broadleaved woodlands for the Snowdonia National Park and then as a self-employed sub-contractor for Eastern Woodlands.

Peter Raines has transferred from Scottish Division Central Landscape branch to the Anglia branch after some four years in Scotland as assistant contracts manager. With Anglia, he will continue and expand the branch's landscape contracting activities.

Mark Hudson has

transferred from South East branch to the post of forester with the East Yorkshire branch.

Mark and Gina, with their one-year-old son Nicholas, hope to settle at Baldersby. Mark joined Tilhill in August 1980 and his interests are gardening, fishing, old motorbikes and folk guitar.

His position has been filled at South East branch by a newly-appointed assistant



branch manager **Jonathan Terry** (above) who graduated from Bangor in 1981.

Jonathan started his new job immediately after working with Woosnam and Tyler at Bulth Wells where he gained useful experience in forestry and agricultural estate management.

Jonathan is 24 and his interests include mountaineering, hill walking, camping and campanology.

Wilson, Argyll branch, who have just been notified that they have passed their written and oral examinations for the National Diploma in Forestry (NDE). Each has been promoted to assistant branch manager. **Bob Wilson** joined Tilhill in Oban in 1974; **John Cantrill** joined Solway branch four years later and last summer moved to the North.

Belated congratulations to **Steele and Lesley Houghton**, Marches branch, on the birth of a daughter, **Joy**, last year.

CONGRATULATIONS . . .

• To **David Cox** of Southern Division Landscape branch on his election to graduate membership of the Landscape Institute.

• To **Alastair and Alice Grant**, Scottish Division Northern branch, on the birth of a son, **Callum Alastair** on January 5, a brother for **Rory**.

• To first-time parents **Theo and Susan Marsh**, Longlyf Fencing Plant, on the birth of a son, **Andrew**, on February 4.

• To **John Cantrill**, Northern branch, and **Bob**

Three cheers!

THE 1982 winners of the Glenmorangie prizes, awarded each year to branch and regional managers with the highest profitability record in their Divisions are:

- Southern Division — **Roger Lewis**, South East branch.
- Scottish Division — **Roger Smith**, Borders branch.
- H&M Division — **Alan Robbins**, Central Region.

Congratulations to all three, who will by now have enjoyed countless well-earned "drams" from their cases of Glenmorangie whisky.

Colin's prize paper

COLIN MacBRAYNE, abm at Scottish Division Central branch, has been awarded the Sir George Campbell Memorial Trophy, presented by the Royal Scottish Forestry Society, for his paper "The Case for Farm Forestry" which was published in the April 1982 issue of the Society's journal *Scottish Forestry* and was judged by the editorial committee to be the year's best paper.

The article outlines the necessity for upland farmers to diversify production and how small scale forestry, managed in such a way as to provide maximum agricultural benefits, could more fully realise the productive capacity of the upland areas and, through increased and more varied employment, assist materially in reversing their social decline.

The award will be presented by the Society at Cawdor Estate in Inverness-shire during the 1983 annual excursion which is being held in May.

SCOTTISH

CENTRAL LANDSCAPE branch has completed a neat hat-trick on the M90 in Perthshire with the award of a £56,000 contract to landscape the section between Arngask and Muirmont. The sequence began in 1977 with the section between Arlary and Arngask, followed in 1979 with the Muirmont to Moncrieff Hill stretch. This latest contract began last November and was completed in March.

Branch manager Graham Russell has plenty to smile about. In January, the Scottish Development Agency awarded him three large contracts, one very prestigious one, worth £69,000, for advance planting works at Dundee's Riverside Drive to improve the city approaches, another for £61,291 for site clearance, fencing, planting and seeding at Brownsburn Phase 2C and a third, worth £33,951, for fencing, planting and footpath construction at Scarhill, Airdrie.

Another contract for footpath construction and planting works, this time at Blackburn and Loganlea and worth £9381, came in the same month from the West Lothian District Council.

March proved to be another good month for the branch with nearly £100,000 worth of contracts confirmed. The biggest, £56,853 for Balfour Beatty, is for tree and shrub planting on the A9 Auchterarder Bypass, beginning in November. Central Regional Council awarded a £27,700 contract for ploughing, tree planting and fencing at a new industrial estate at Broadleys and Wimpeys awarded a £14,000 contract for footpath construction at the Royal Scottish National Hospital at Larbert.



Plenty to be pleased about . . . Graham Russell at the Dundee site.

Contracts

● **LOTHIANS** branch has won five landscape contracts, three of them from Lothian Regional Council, worth in total £53,680. The largest, for £28,000, is for earthmoving, fencing and tree and shrub planting at Mayfield Industrial Estate and the remaining two are for similar work at Dalkeith and Wallyford in Midlothian. The Scottish Special Housing Association has awarded the branch a £10,100 contract at Langlaw, Dalkeith, and a £7800 contract for deer fencing and tree planting has come from Blue Circle Industries for work at their Dunbar Cement Works.

● **EAST YORKS** branch has been awarded two major contracts, total value £103,000. The first, for £53,000, is for Tyne and Wear County Council for landscaping and treeplanting on a steep river bank reclamation site at the mouth of the River Tyne. The second, for Sir Robert McAlpine & Sons Ltd., is on another reclamation site on British Rail's South Shields line, involving topsoiling, grass seeding and planting works. Contract value is £50,000. A third contract, worth £29,232, came from Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council for landscape works at Preston Farm Industrial Estate.

● **SOLWAY** branch has landed a £70,748 contract for seeding, planting and formation of a turf dyke for Balfour Beatty Construction on the A7 Canonbie bypass. The branch was also awarded two smaller contracts, one worth £17,019 for fencing and planting on a reclaimed site on behalf of Oldham MBC and another, worth £8881 at Moffat consisting of fencing, draining and underplanting a semi-derelict wood next to a British Gas compressor station.

● **BORDERS** branch are busy on a £33,651 contract for Tyne and Wear County Council for winter and summer landscape maintenance.

The same branch has also been awarded a £10,800 contract by the Department of the Environment for ploughing, planting and fertilising 22 ha. of airfield at Albarbar Barracks in Newcastle and another for £6944 for ploughing, planting and a year's maintenance on the Eyemouth Bypass for Borders Regional Council.

● **ARGYLL** branch has been awarded a contract valued at £9924 for various security fences associated with new William Low superstore in Oban.

MARTIN GILES' new Berkshire branch has got off to a good start with two important contracts on a 4.5 ha. screen for a proposed industrial and office development adjacent to the M4 on the outskirts of Swindon. Both contracts are for the Primary Perimeter Planning Belt on land owned by St Martins Property Investment Ltd.

The larger of the two, worth £100,546, is comprised of land drainage, fencing and gates, a gravel track, irrigation, soil preparation and tree planting, plus a five-year maintenance programme.

The second, worth another £13,269, is for tree surgery and further planting work. A third contract on the same site is being handled by Landscape branch.

● **ANGLIA** branch has won a £90,875 contract from the Forestry Commission for site preparation, planting and maintenance of the A120 Colchester Eastern and Elmstead Market Bypasses.

Other contracts awarded to this branch include one for £40,000 from V. M. Donnelly Ltd., for seeding, turfing, tree and shrub planting at the new NAPP laboratories site in Cambridge, a Hertfordshire County Council contract, worth £27,300, for tree and hedge planting and three years' maintenance to the newly-constructed A505 Royston Bypass, and a £15,704 contract from Norfolk County Council for the creation of a car park with associated seeding, shrub beds and picnic facilities.

● **LANDSCAPE** branch is currently handling contracts with a total value of £175,000, the largest of which, £62,000 is for planting and seeding at the industrial park at Swindon already mentioned.

Other contracts include work for Berkshire County Council at Thatcham (£17,000), BP International Training Centre at Denham (£20,000), Asda Super-

SOUTHERN



Cleaning cost halved

MARTIN GILES has solved the problem of invasion of birch and other woody weed species in conifer plantations by using a new method of mechanical inter-row cleaning which halves the cost of conventional cleaning.

The plantation concerned is on Lord Porchester's estate where an extensive clearance programme of rhododendron scrub was carried out about nine years ago. Although the planted crops, mainly larch, grew well, prolific weed species threatened to choke the young trees.

It was decided to call in a specialist clearing service, John McDermid of Haywards Heath, who used a Holder C500 four-wheel-drive forward-control tractor with a new, front-mounted flail (above).

The tractor worked happily in 5' 6" and 6' spaced crops and completed nearly three acres a day of heavy, inter-row cleaning. Woody species between the trees were cut by brush-cutter.

The only limitation on use, says Martin, would be very wet ground or a large number of old stumps.

markets at Totton (£15,000), Mutual Municipal Insurance on an old army site at Farnborough (£14,000), Woking Borough Council's new civic offices (£13,000), R. M. Douglas at Broadbridge Heath (£9000) a supermarket at Didcot (£8000), Greater London Council at Denham (£6000), a show house and exhibition area for New Ideal Homes Ltd., at Guildford (£6000) and a design and construct landscape job for a private client at Camberley (£5000).

● **SOUTH EAST** branch is landscaping a recreation area for the London Borough of Waltham Forest, value £31,036. Work includes hard and soft landscaping, installation of playground material, laying of a safety surface, construction of brick walls and timber fencing, earth mounding and tree and shrub planting.

Another contract, value £6974, has been awarded by East Sussex County Council for whip and hedge planting on the Hastings spine road.

Tilhill resilient in face of recession

A MODEST improvement in profits has been recorded this year despite the prolonged period of particularly severe winter weather which contributed to a lower turnover, and this gives some grounds for satisfaction.

Nationally, the recession continues and the timber market remains depressed, with few signs of recovery in timber prices, particularly in respect of small roundwood, where there is now less opportunity to relieve the pressure of UK production by exporting to Scandinavia.

EFFORTS

While the efforts of the Welsh Development Agency and the Scottish Development Agency in conjunction with the Highlands and Islands Development Board continue, no announcement of any new processing plant for British industrial wood, which is so urgently required, has yet been made. This adverse economic climate has not prevented the re-structured Harvesting and Marketing Division from making a contribu-

THE TONE of Tilhill Chairman H. E. Trevan-Hawke's statement, made in the annual report and accounts for the year ended September 30, 1982, was one of cautious optimism during a difficult time for the forestry industry and concluded with a vote of thanks to the staff for their diligence and hard work.

tion to our increased profits, and we look for a marked improvement when the timber market begins its recovery.

The company was retained to act for more pension funds investing in forestry and there is no doubt that with plantation values held back by the recession in the timber market, the present time presents an outstanding opportunity to invest, especially at the quality end of the market.

DECLINE

Although the area of woodlands under our management increased during the year, there was a marked decline in the level of new planting, which had a depressing effect on the level

of sales and profits from the Nurseries Division. It may be that the new planting grant structure introduced by the Government in October 1981 came too late to promote the desired levels of planting last season.

CONFLICT

There is a conflict between the Government's policy of encouraging new planting by the private sector and the direction to the Forestry Commission to commit itself to an ongoing programme of disposals. Except in so far as the disposals are expected to include a very small proportion of plantable land, they do nothing to increase the nation's stock of forests, and do

positive harm to the new planting programme.

There is no doubt that some investment funds which would have gone into creating plantations have been diverted to purchasing established plantations from the Forestry Commission or held back in readiness for more suitable offerings.

MODEST

In landscaping work there was a modest increase in sales, but this was achieved only at the expense of some decline in margins. Landscaping is a highly competitive field, but one in which we see scope for further advance, and steps are being taken to expand this activity in support of our principal forestry business.

Although the past year has had its difficulties, stemming largely from the continuation of the very severe recession, the overall result achieved reflects great credit on the diligence and application of all the staff and the resilience of the company as a whole.

GARDEN FOR ALL SEASONS

A SPECTACULAR calendar garden is nearing completion some 600 feet up in Ashdown Forest following a high degree of collaboration between Tilhill and one of its longest-established clients.

The garden extends to 2000 square metres of sculpted shrub beds designed to harmonise with an unusually-shaped outdoor swimming pool built in the grounds of the aptly-named Windyridge, owned by the Hon. Simon Stuart. The entire area is set in a further 1000 square metres of new grass seeding.

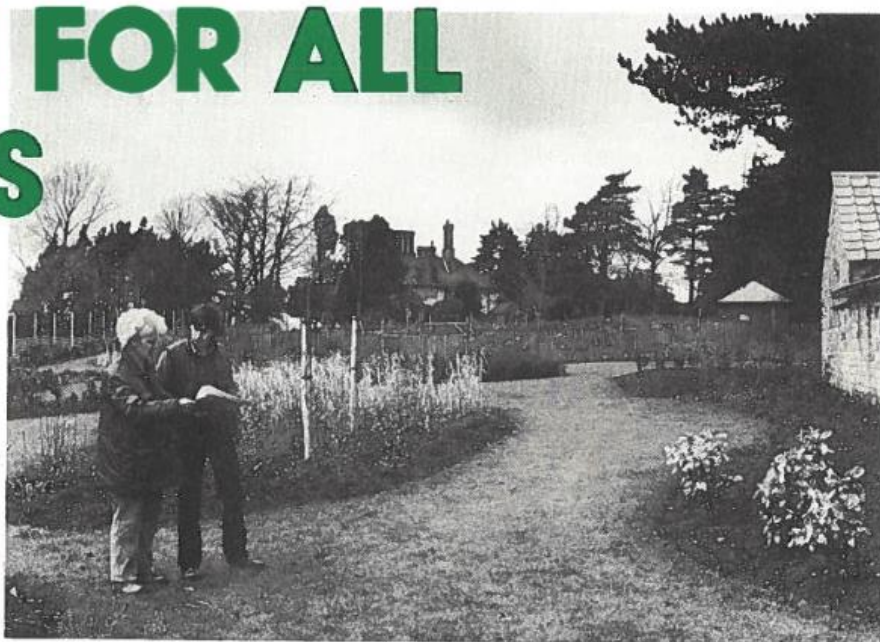
Family connection

Mr Stuart is a member of the Castle-Stewart family who own woodlands in that part of Ashdown Forest which have been managed by Tilhill for many years. At one time, the family owned woodlands at Tilford in Surrey, site of Tilhill's headquarters and nurseries and the family connection goes back almost to the very beginning of Tilhill when Mr Stuart's father, Earl Castle Stewart, was a friend of Tilhill's founder Archie Atkins and was, for a time, chairman of the Company.

Tilhill's South East branch, based in Crowborough, Sussex, currently manages some 300 ha. of Castle-Stewart land and is also handling the contract, unusually large for a private client, for the landscaped garden at Mr Simon Stuart's home.

The request to design and construct a calendar garden came two-and-a-half years ago. Mr Stuart wanted a garden where something would be in flower at every time of the year, even in the middle of winter.

A man sensitive to ecology, interested as much in a plant's properties for attracting insects and butterflies as in its appearance, he is a very



Phil Hewitson deep in discussion with the family gardener Les Attrell at the Windyridge garden.

keen and knowledgeable botanist and played a major part, with South East branch's previous landscape assistant Ian Robinson, in designing the scheme.

In particular, he wanted to include a number of unusual species such as *Perovskia atriplicifolia* which produces a pleasant feathery foliage and flowers in late summer.

The land for the garden had to be reclaimed from adjacent rough pasture and protected from the elements, until it is sufficiently well-established, by a temporary 2.2 metre high ICI "Paraweb" fence.

The work was carried out by Tilhill's own staff

and much of the initial planting took place during the very difficult drought conditions of May last year. It was due only to the skilful organisation of Phil Hewitson and to the extremely careful watering-in and fertilising in the care of landscape foreman David Martin that some of the more tender plants also specified by Mr Stuart, such as *Hypericum Rowallane*, *Lavandula stoechas* and *Cantua buxifolia*, survived.

All that remains to be done now is the filling in of some tender species which were not available last year and the planting of some trees before handing over to the family gardener.

It will be another three or four years before the garden matures to its full glory. Fortunately, managing the Stuart's Windyridge woodlands, Tilhill staff will be able to call and see the fruit of their labour and share the owner's enjoyment.

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